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Letter dated 26 January 2010 from the Secretary-General to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), established by Security Council resolution 1401 (2002) of 28 March 2002. Following the usual consultations, it is my intention to appoint Mr. Staffan de Mistura (Sweden) as my Special Representative for Afghanistan and Head of UNAMA as of 1 March 2010.

Mr. De Mistura will replace Mr. Kai Eide, who will complete his service as my Special Representative for Afghanistan and Head of Mission on 28 February 2010. I will inform the Security Council in my forthcoming report of how I envisage the responsibilities to be carried out by my Special Representative under the mandate of UNAMA.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

I would like to express my appreciation to Mr. Kai Eide for his dedicated service and excellent leadership of UNAMA over the past two years, which was a critical period for Afghanistan with difficult elections and a very challenging security situation.

(Signed) **BAN** Ki-moon

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